Reviewer's report

Title: The contribution of leading diseases and risk factors to excess losses of healthy life in eastern Europe: burden of disease study

Version: 1 Date: 11 July 2005

Reviewer: Paolo Boffetta

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Readers might not be familiar with the classification of WHO subregions, which might complicate the interpretation of the results. For example, in the paragraph on results east-west differences are mentioned, but in the preceding paragraph there is no mention to the geographic coverage of the three subregions. Similarly, more details should be provided on the GBD and the CRA projects and the ways DALYs are attributed to diseases (figure 2) and risk factors (figure 3).

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

None

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests.